

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-9 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,892,481. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a manipulator comprising a control handle. Claim 1 also calls for the manipulator to be hydraulic and for an electronic power board integrated into the cavity of the casing of the handle. Applicants respectfully assert that Yamamoto fails to teach or suggest these features because Yamamoto only discloses a joystick that outputs electrical signals.

For example, Yamamoto at col. 2, lines 35-38, teaches a voltage outputting means for outputting a voltage proportional to the amount of movement. Further, Yamamoto teaches a sensor for detecting a magnetic field intensity varying in accordance with displacement of a magnet that is constructed to output a voltage proportional to a variation in the magnetic field intensity detected by the sensor at col. 2, lines 55-58. However, nowhere in Yamamoto is there any teaching or suggesting that Yamamoto's joystick device 1 is a hydraulic manipulator.

Consequently, Yamamoto fails to teach or suggest a manipulator comprising a control handle characterized in that the manipulator is hydraulic and an electronic power board integrated into the cavity of the casing of the handle.

Claims 2-6 and 9 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamamoto in view of Thoman, U.S. Patent No. 4,386,553. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamamoto in view of Johnson, U.S. Patent No. 5,675,609. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Further, neither Thoman nor Johnson, alone or in combination, overcome the deficiencies of Yamamoto because both Thoman and Johnson only relate to joysticks with electrical controls.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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